

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 5-9, 11, and 13-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, JP 08027330 (Mizuno et al), is respectfully traversed.

As disclosed in the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of the specification, the present invention relates, *inter alia*, to a foam made from a thermoplastic elastomer composition, and a process for producing a foam. More particularly, the invention relates to a thermoplastic elastomer composition having a three-dimensional network structure which is not formed by a chemical crosslinking and having an excellent elasticity recovery and flexibility. Furthermore, the invention relates to a foam which is formed from the thermoplastic elastomer composition described above and in which the cells are formed uniformly and which has a highly closed cell, an uniform cell shape and size, an excellent elasticity recovery, flexibility and appearance and a method for producing such a foam. A thermoplastic elastomer composition of the invention can favorably be utilized in automobile interior parts, automobile exterior parts, light electric appliance parts, other industrial parts, building materials, sport goods and the like. A foam of the invention can favorably be utilized in automobile weather strip, vibration absorbers for electric appliances and the like.

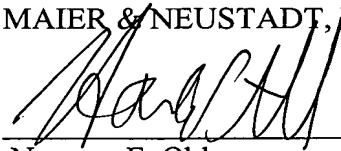
Mizuno et al discloses a particular thermoplastic elastomer composition. However, Mizuno et al neither discloses nor suggests a foam made from their thermoplastic elastomer composition. The present claims are all limited to a foam or method of making a foam. It appears that the Examiner has ignored the "foam" limitations in applying Mizuno et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

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All of the presently pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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